No Objection To Declassification 2009/09/22 : LOC-HAK-260-3-57-7

*******U N C L A S S I F I E D*******S COPY

OP IMMED

[redacted] #3100 1491457 25X1
O 2914152 MAY 74 ZFF-1 ZFF-4 ZYH
FM THE SITUATION ROOM

TO DR. KISSINGER (JERUSALEM)

UNCLAS [redacted] WH41572 25X1

TOHAK 347

PLEASE DELIVER TO BREMER/RODMAN FOR THE SECRETARY

REF: HAKTO 160
FOR PETER RODMAN
SUBJECT: OSBORNE ARTICLE IN NEW REPUBLIC

THE FOLLOWING CONTAINS THE PERTINENT PART OF THE OSBORNE ARTICLE RELATING TO YOU. THE ARTICLE WAS ADDRESSING THE QUESTION - WHETHER THE PRESIDENT WAS REALLY OBLIVIOUS ABOUT TAPING CONVERSATIONS. THE SESSION ON APRIL 14, 1973 INVOLVED THE PRESIDENT, HALDEMAN AND EHRLICHMAN IN THE PRESIDENT'S EOB OFFICE.

QUOTE
THE PRESIDENT, HALDEMAN AND EHRLICHMAN HAD CONCLUDED THAT MITCHELL HAD APPROVED THE PLANS THAT LED TO THE WATERGATE BUGGING. THEY HOPED TO PERSUADE HIM TO ADMIT AS MUCH AND THUS KEEP THE BLAME AWAY FROM THE PRESIDENT. FROM THE TRANSCRIPT:
E: I WOULD LIKE A RECORD OF MY CONVERSATION WITH BOTH MAGRUDER AND MITCHELL. I THINK PERSONALLY THAT MAYBE I OUGHT TO GET MY OFFICE GEARED UP SO THAT I CAN DO THAT.
P: (UNINTELLIGIBLE) OR DO YOU REMOVE THAT EQUIPMENT?
E: YEAH.
P: I DO HERE FOR MY MEETINGS WITH HENRY BUT I DON'T KNOW ...WHY DON'T YOU JUST GEAR IT UP? DO YOU KNOW, DO YOU HAVE A WAY TO GEAR IT UP?
E: YEAH. I'VE DONE IT BEFORE.
P: WELL, GO GEAR IT.

THE PRESIDENT THEN TOLD EHRLICHMAN THAT HE WANTED TO KNOW WHAT MITCHELL SAID, BUT DIDN'T WANT TO HEAR THE RECORD.

MORI/CDF C03345709

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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EHRLICHMAN USED AN IBM DICTATING MACHINE TO RECORD TELEPHONE CALLS AND A SMALL TAPE RECORDER TO RECORD OFFICE CONVERSATIONS. HIS RECORD OF THE MITCHELL AND MAGRUDER TALKS WAS ON AN ORDINARY TAPE CASSETTE. STEPHEN BULL, WHO REPLACED BUTTERFIELD IN CHARGE OF THE CENTRAL TAPING SYSTEM, AND OTHERS AT THE WHITE HOUSE, SAY THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT MR. NIXON MEANT WITH HIS REFERENCE TO HIS "MEETINGS WITH HENRY." HE CERTAINLY DID NOT MEAN THAT HE "REMOVED THAT EQUIPMENT" OR HALTED THE CENTRAL TAPING WHEN HE TALKED WITH HENRY KISSINGER. THE OFFICE CONVERSATIONS WITH KISSINGER WERE RECORDED AND KISSINGER'S VOICE IS SAID TO BE THE CLEAREST ON NIXON TAPES. UNQUOTE.
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